



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5758  
October 6, 2020  
Regular Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 5758: Fire Services Study – Part 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Receive final report, hear presentation, and provide direction to staff on next steps.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Manager
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jessi Bon, City Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Matrix Consulting’s Fire Services Study Final Report 2. Memo and attachments from independent consultant, Emily Moon
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	2. Articulate, confirm, and communicate a vision for effective and efficient city services. Stabilize the organization, optimize resources, and develop a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability.

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**SUMMARY**

The City Council presentation will highlight modifications made to the Fire Services Study, provide additional information as follow up to the questions that councilmembers posed in July 2020, convey further analysis of Matrix Consulting Group’s recommendations and options, and re-frame that central question of “Can the Mercer Island Fire Department (MIFD) improve its efficiency in its delivery of services?”

The goal of the presentation and discussion is to accept the Fire Services Study Final Report and identify any additional follow-up steps the Council wishes to take. Three possible steps are:

1. Take no further action.
2. Postpone decisions on next steps until the January City Council Planning Session (or later). This allows the City Council to adopt the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget and workplan and situate any additional fire service efficiency research within the context of the City’s bigger picture.
3. Direct the City Manager to prepare a budget proposal to conduct an RFP process and commence further study of the contractual fire services alternative.

## Modifications Made to Draft Report

In July 2020, Matrix presented the City Council with its first draft of the Fire Services Study. In this final version, Matrix made the following modifications:

- Comparisons to national standards were moved to the appendix, as the MIFD (and most other departments) primarily compares its performance against “Community Standards.”
- Additional background concerning use of overtime and overtime policies were included.
- Recommendations concerning video conferencing for training (MIFD already does that) and replacing an apparatus with a quint-style truck were removed after Matrix better understood the department’s current practices and their quint recommendation’s consequences. However, the consulting team continues to recommend that the City develop a fire impact fee that will help pay for growth-related needs, such as upgraded apparatus or other capital outlays or facilities.
- Throughout the report, Matrix updated and corrected calculations and figures.
- Additional salary, benefits, leave time and overtime budgets/expenses/uses were provided.
- Additional information regarding the Fire Marshal’s Office’s activities and the City’s WSRB rating were provided.
- Multi-year modeling for staffing recommendations/options and of the contracting proposals was added.
- Additional information was provided concerning the option of adding a dedicated aid car.
- A list of possible partial contracting options was added.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Move one of the following alternatives:

1. Alternative #1: Accept the Fire Services Study Final Report and take no further action.
2. Alternative #2: Accept the Fire Services Study Final Report and defer further action/discussions to the 2021 City Council Planning Session or a future date.
3. Alternative #3: Accept the Fire Services Study Final Report and direct the City Manager to prepare a budget proposal to conduct an RFP process and commence further study of the contractual fire services alternative.